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Plan for Setting up Institutional Repository at Mahatma Gandhi *Antarrashtriya* Hindi *Vishwavidyalaya*, Wardha

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on plan for setting up an Institutional Repository (IR) at MPRS Central Library, Mahatma Gandhi *Antarrashtriya* Hindi *Vishwavidyalaya*, Wardha. Diverse issues, advantages and complexities involved in creation and development of IR. Administrative policies, funding for hardware and software, technical possibilities, legal and copyright obligations played major role to encourage, preserve and protect intellectual research output of the university.

1. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries are cross roads. Shrinking of library budget and inflation of periodical publications prices make management of the libraries costlier. Hence, libraries need to encourage alternative efforts and to promote scholarly communication and its best usage of scholarly journals communication and publication. To meet the mission, majority of libraries have been started modernisation and attract new technology not only to enrich the system but also make their resources and services effectively and available openly. In order to encounter the challenges, central library of Mahatma Gandhi *Antarrashtriya* Hindi *Vishwavidyalaya* (MGAHV), Wardha plans to initiate IR for not only to capture and preserve local resources of its own but also make a platform for accessing resources openly. Hence, IR is one of the proper and useful technologies that libraries adopt for managing and showcasing institutional research output openly. "IR provides ways of sharing knowledge and new opportunities for institutions to use their intellectual capital as a more effective indicator of academic quality (Vishala and Bhandi, 2007)." The main objectives of the paper are as follows:

- To advocate local resources especially Hindi literature and access them openly.

- To utilize and preserve resources effectively and perpetually.
- To increase university visibility.
- To reduce university operational costs.

2. CENTRAL LIBRARY OF MGAHV – BRIEF HISTORY

MGAHV or Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University (A Central University), Wardha, Maharashtra was established to fulfil a dream of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. It was created by an Act passed by the Indian Parliament in 1997. Section-3 of the Act mandates special and unique responsibility to the University to enrich Hindi language and literature by teaching and research and make it capable of becoming a World language in the real sense of the term. The university has excellent campus facilities to create academic and research environment.

MGAHV has a central library and holding 1,17,770 books, 70 number of print journals both national and international. It provides electronic resources to all its users. It is an active member of UGC Infonet consortium to share e-journals mainly in the field of social sciences, literature and linguistics. The library plans to procure e-books of various kinds to meet academic and research interest. Library has also in the process of digitising some of rare books, manuscripts and institutional research output of faculty, researcher and staff. The university has already MoU with INFLIBNET for digitisation process and digital library development program as well as ETD development.

3. INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

The term IR is a warehouse of an academic institute that captures and preserve and disseminate intellectual research output of the faculty, researchers and students. Many academic libraries are actively involved in building IR to digitise and publicise their own collections such as books, papers, theses, and other works and make it public available. “IR is created for the purpose of managing and disseminating of digital materials access to members of the university community (Lynch, 2003)”. However, with limited constrains, IR become popular in not only communicating science but also its coverage of various disciplines such as arXiv- physics, mathematics etc., EconPapers-economics, LingBuzz-English, CogPrints- literature on Psychology, OAOB (Open Access to Oriya books) etc.

According to Jones (2006) IR is one of the best choices for minimizing cost involved in subscribing and renewing scholarly journals.

In India, various organisations like University Grants Commission (UGC, 2005) has developed a policy document on building university level IR. National Knowledge Commission (NKC, 2007) strongly advocates Open Access (OA) to public-funded research literature and recently has taken initiative for building nationwide IR. Bangalore declaration (2006) drafted a model National OA Policy for Developing Countries which also supports this view and advocates OAIR. Some professional associations and societies like DELNET and INFLIBNET are also involved in modernization of libraries, training and setting up the IRs.

As suggest by the many organisations, to setting up IR at university level is very much essential for showcasing institutional output openly. The following are the recommendations for setting up IR at university level.

4. RECOMMENDATION FOR SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

Usage of software and hardware is one of the major concerns that library professionals need to pay attention to expose themselves and narrow gap of digital divide. Some of the important software and hardware recommended for setting up IR at central library of MGAHV, Wardha.

4.1 Software

Selection of software is one of the crucial decisions to manage and operate IR. Dspace, Eprints and Fedora and ETD-db are globally tested and recommended open source software for creating and managing IR effectively. These are open source, user-friendly and allow interoperable simultaneously. Various other software and databases like Java, MySQL, Apache and mod Perl etc. are essential for setting up IR. These open source software also allow access to different kind of collections, communities and for different purpose such as storage, preservation, accessibility and sharing digital content.

4.2 Hardware

A minimum configuration is required for IR computer server with at least a capacity of 200GB hard disk for storage. Linux platform is preferable choice for running OS and

creating IR, however, windows XP is also reliable and user friendly. A reasonable network with internet and high-speed bandwidth is to be needed to implement IR at university level. UPS for power back-up supply. Selection of hardware is purely relying on its efficiency and quality that increases durability and managing IR server nicely.

5. TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

There are issues involved technically in creating and managing IR mainly metadata, interoperability, OAI-compliant**,** digital formats (postscript, pdf, ppt. html etc.), digital objective identifiers for reference to the digital objects, handling number system for archiving etc. Policies, procedures for creating, capturing digital content, self-archiving, hosting content on internet/intranet platform, submission of author version of pre-print and post-print, mandate issues, restrictions etc. are important decision making issues to be considered. A platform for searching and retrieving content is also major concern. According to Bergman (2001) “electronic prints are hard to find through a search engine because they may be ‘hidden in the deep web’ and therefore they cannot be found”. Advocacy, promotion and copyright are also crucial issues for proliferating and protecting scholarly content.

5.1 Advantages

- Research finding available publicly.
- Capturing and digital preservation of documents for longevity.
- Self-arching easily.
- Increase visibility and reputation of both institution and authors.
- Customisation of the software easily.
- Compatible and Interoperable easily.
- Unique interface and searching user-friendly.

5.2 Disadvantages

- Hardware is costlier and its maintenance annually.
- Skilled and trained staff for handling servers and software.
- Quality of paper peer-review system.

- Copyright options.
- Security and hacking.

6. CONCLUSIONS

As recommended by UGC, IR at university level makes a change for capturing, preserving and showcasing intellectual research output. It is not only reducing the university investments towards purchase of print and electronic resources of the library but also increasing reputation, prestige, visibility of the university and global recognition of authors as well. Hence, setting up IR at central library of MGAHV is one of the viable and useful options for accessing rare collections in Hindi Literature, manuscripts and other relevant documents.

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